

Message Text

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ACTION ARA-10

INFO OCT-01 IO-13 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-01 INR-07

L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06

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FM AMEMBASSY SANTIAGO

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 3551

INFO AMEMBASSY BUENOS AIRES

USMISSION USUN

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C O N F I D E N T I A L SANTIAGO 1462

E. O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PINT, PFOR, SHUM, CI, AR, UN

SUBJECT: MISSING COMMUNISTS

REF: (A) SANTIAGO 0834, (B) SANTIAGO 1351 (C) BUENOS AIRES 1362

1. TWO RELATIVES OF THE MISSING COMMUNISTS WHO "DISAPPEARED" IN DECEMBER REQUESTED ON FEBRUARY 18 THAT THE EMBASSY TRANSMIT THE CONTENTS OF A TELEGRAM THEY SAID THEY ATTEMPTED TO SEND TO THE US CONGRESS, REGARDING THE PLIGHT OF THE MISSING RELATIVES. THE TWO -- DAUGHTERS OF JUAN FERNANDO ORTIZ LETELIER AND LINCOYAN BERRIOS -- ALSO PRODUCED A LETTER ADDRESSED TO THE EMBASSY FROM THE FAMILIES OF ALL THE MISSING, IN WHICH THEY ASSERT THAT TWO CHILEAN COMMUNICATIONS COMPANIES AND ITT REFUSED TO SEND THE TELEGRAM, ON GROUNDS THAT THEY HAD RECEIVED "ORDERS FROM ABOVE" NOT TO TRANSMIT THIS TYPE OF INFORMATION.

2. THE TWO RELATIVES COMPLAINED THAT THE GOC IS HARASSING THE FAMILIES FOR THEIR CONTINUING EFFORTS TO ELICIT PUBLICITY ON THIS ISSUE, AND ASSERTED THAT THE GOVERNMENT HAS THREATENED REPRISALS SHOULD THE FAMILIES CONTINUE.

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3. AN INFORMAL TRANSLATION OF THE TELEGRAM DIRECTED TO THE US SENATE AND HOUSE FOLLOWS: "IN OUR SITUATION AS WIVES, PARENTS AND CHILDREN OF 13 PERSONS ARRESTED IN THE COUNTRY, ON WHOM THERE HAS BEEN NO INFORMATION SINCE THEIR ARREST TWO MONTHS AGO, WE URGENTLY ASK THAT YOU UNDERTAKE MESURES TO DETERMINE THE LOCATION AND STATUS OF OUR RELATIVES AND, IN CASE THAT THEY HAVE BEEN TRANSFERRED TO ARGENTINA, PRESS FOR THEM TO BE SHOEN. THEY

ARE (LIST OF THE 13 FOLLOWS). THE MAJORITY ARE OUTSTANDING LABOR LEADERS AND MEMBERS OF THE COMMUNIST PARTY, WHICH QUALIFIES THEM AS POLITICAL DISSIDENTS. APPRECIATING YOUR EFFORTS BEFORE HAD, THE RELATIVES."

4. REF C REPORTED THAT THE GOA ANNOUNCED THE ENTRY INTO ARGENTINA OF TWO MORE MISSING CHILEAN COMMUNISTS, RAISING TO SIX THE NUMBER IT HAS ACKNOWLEDGED AS HAVING ENTERED ARGENTINA. THE TWO -- REINALDA PEREIRA (IN ADVANCED STAGES OF PREGNANCY) AND LINCOYAN BERRIOS -- ARE AMONG THE EIGHT PERSONS WHOM THE GOC DOCUMENTED HAS HAVING LEFT CHILE FOR ARGENTINA AROUND THE END OF 1976 (REF B).

5. COMMENT: THE LATEST VISIT BY RELATIVES OF THE MISSING COMMUNISTS CONTINUES THE FAMILIES' CAMPAIGN TO SOLICIT EMBASSY ASSISTANCE IN SEEKING INFORMATION ON THE MISSING. THEY GIVE EVERY EVIDENCE OF SINCERITY, BUT WE DO NOT EXCLUDE THE POSSIBILITY OF THEIR INVOLVEMENT IN A COMMUNIST ATTEMPT TO DISCREDIT THE GOVERNMENT BY MOUNTING PHONY "DISAPPEARANCES."
POPPER

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